ADDITIONAL FEE:

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R E M A R K S

The Office Action issued May 9, 2008 has been received and its contents have been carefully considered.

Applicants have amended the specification and claims to refer to the "spars" 42 and 43 of applicants' blister package arrangement by the more descriptive term "bridge parts". These "bridge parts" provide a "bridge" between the area inside the "stamped line" and the area outside of this line.

Claim 1 has also been amended to change the word "severed" to -- broken -- which implies only that the "bridge part" is torn in some way.

Finally, the Abstract has been amended to refer to the "bridge parts" and to reduce its word count to 147.

All the claims of this application have been rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by the U.S. Patent No. 5,412,372 to Parkhurst et al. ("Parkhurst"). This rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons:

As recited in claim 1, the present invention relates to a blister package arrangement wherein (among others) the openings in the conductor carrier strip are formed by stamped lines positioned within the conductor carrier strip, whereby the stamped lines surround each of the pockets in a ring shape. Furthermore, the stamped lines are interrupted by at least two bridge parts (spars) by means of which a covering, separated by the stamped line out of the conductor carrier strip and covering a pocket of the blister package, is connected with the conductor carrier strip. The bridge parts (spars) are so distributed over the periphery of the stamped line that, when a tablet is pressed out from a pocket of the blister package, at least one bridge part is broken, so that an individual conductor, extending over at least one bridge part, is broken too.

Applicants' claimed blister package arrangement, and especially the above-mentioned features, are clearly shown in Figures 7 and 9 of the application, as reproduced below:

FIG. 7

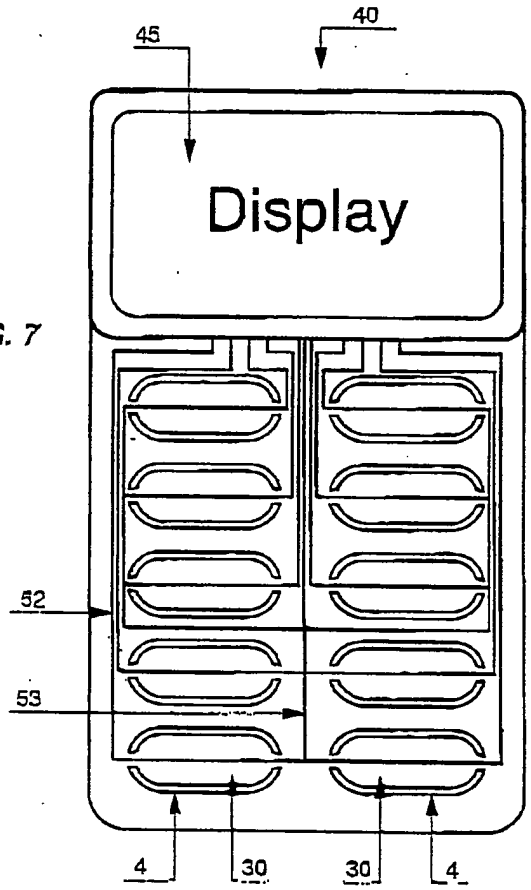
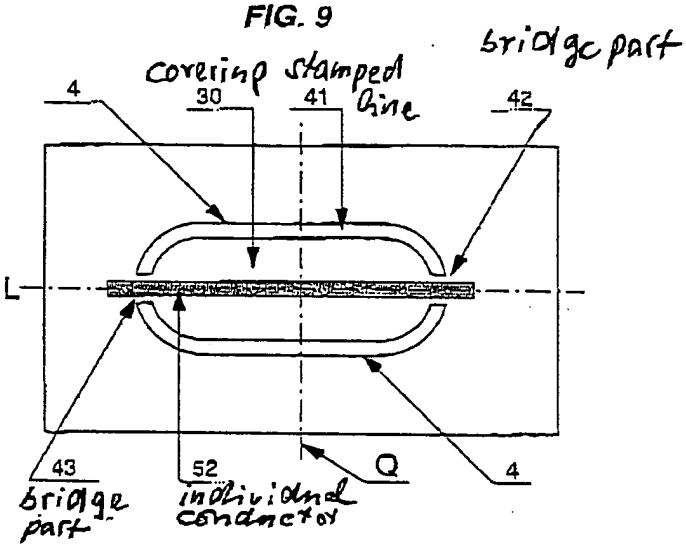


FIG. 9



According to Figure 9 and the corresponding text of the specification, the removal of a tablet causes at least one of the bridge parts 42 and 43, or both bridge parts 42 and 43, to be broken. In each case the individual conductor 52 extending over both bridge parts 42 and 43 is interrupted.

The patent to Parkhurst discloses an article dispenser which operates on a totally different principle. This becomes quite clear from the Figures 6, 7 and 7A of Parkhurst.

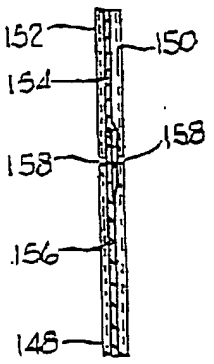


FIG.7

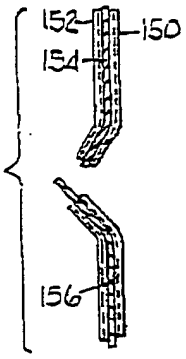


FIG.7A

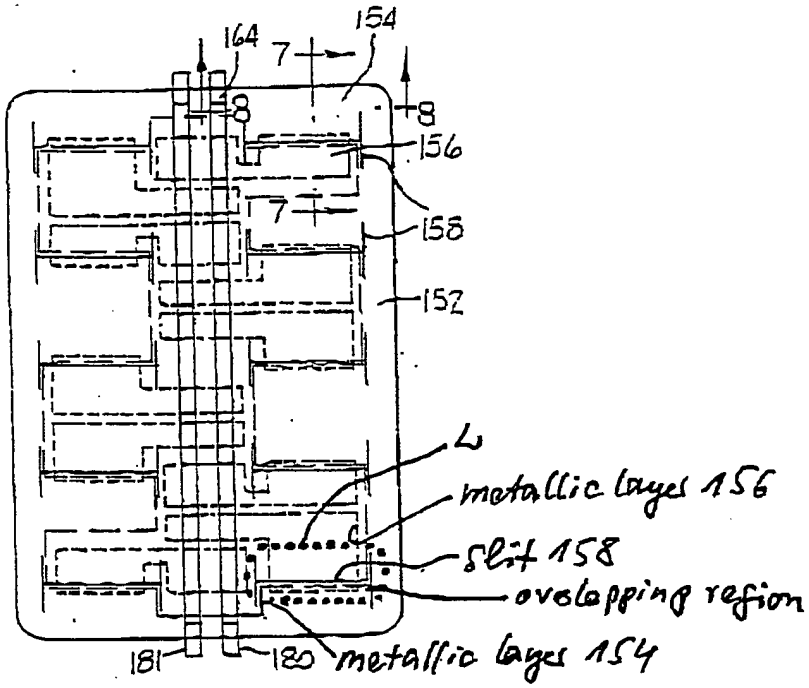


FIG.6

From these figures and from the corresponding parts of the specification of Parkhurst, it is evident that no openings are formed by a stamped line positioned on a conductor carrier strip, where the stamped line surrounds a pocket in a ring shape. There also exist no bridge parts interrupting the stamped line in such a way that a covering is formed and separated by the stamped line out of the conductor carrier strip, whereby the bridge parts connect the covering with the conductor carrier strip. Finally, there are no individual conductors extending over at least one bridge part that is broken during a tablet removal.

Parkhurst discloses a sensor sheet 148 which has non-conductive outer layers 150 and 152 and two conductive, metallic foil, circuit layers 154 and 156 between them. The circuit layer 154 provides the common return or supply circuit for all of the sensing paths in the sensor sheet. The signal circuit elements 156 overlaps the common circuit layer 154 at each of the article compartment areas as indicated by the added dotted line L in Figure 6. In this way, normally-closed switch structures are created at each of the sensing regions. The two outer layers 150 and 152 have slits 158 (see especially Figure 7) so that in the case where a force acts on the overlapping region of the metallic layers 154 and 156, these layers are separated from each other according to Figure 7A.

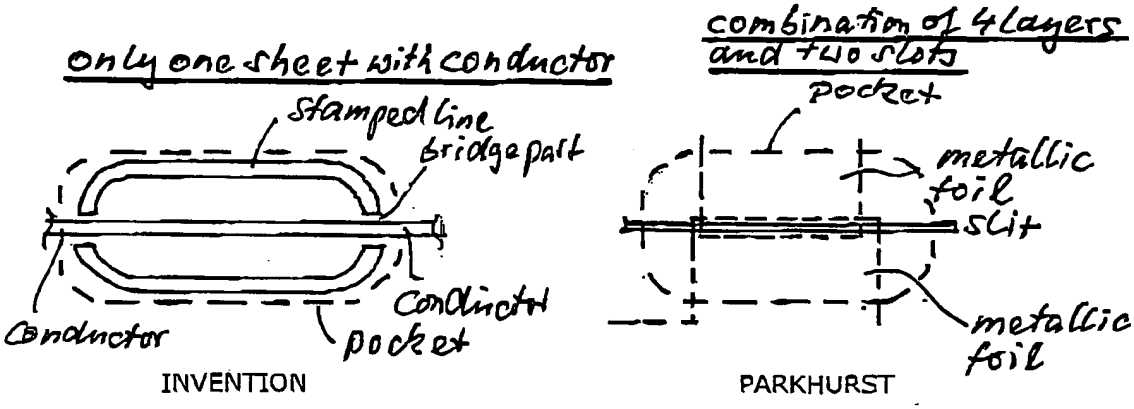
It will be understood that such an arrangement is quite sophisticated, and difficult and expensive to produce as compared with the arrangement of present invention. The production of a sheet with the combined outer layers 150 and 152 and the metallic layers 154 and 156 requires a lot of time and material as well as in expensive production steps. As can clearly be seen from the above figures, the blister package arrangement of Parkhurst does not include any stamped lines positioned within a conductor carrier strip

and surrounding each of the pockets in a ring shape. Instead of this, the slits 158 are clearly arranged totally within the region covering the pocket.

Parkhurst also does not show any element comparable with the "bridge part" of the present invention. Applicants' claim 1 clearly states that at least one bridge part is so distributed about the periphery of the stamped line that, when a tablet is pressed out from a pocket, the bridge part is broken. In contrast thereto, Parkhurst provides no element that is comparable with such a bridge part, distributed about the periphery of a stamped line and connecting the outside of the ring-shaped stamped line with the inner region of this ring-shaped stamped line.

Finally, according to the present invention, an individual conductor extends over at least one bridge part that is broken when a tablet is removed. Parkhurst provides neither such a bridge part nor an individual conductor extending over such a bridge part.

In conclusion, therefore,it may be seen that Parkhurst and the present invention are based on different principles, as illustrated in the following figures:



Accordingly, it is believed that claim 1 of this application distinguishes patentably over Parkhurst. Since all the remaining claims of this application are dependent, either directly or indirectly, from claim 1, this application is believed to be condition for immediate allowance. A formal Notice of Allowance is accordingly respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Services as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313 20231 on

AUGUST 11, 2008

MILDE & HOFFBERG, LLP

By _____

Date AUGUST 11, 2008